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NSC BRIEFING

20 December 1960

BACKGROUND

KOREA

- I. North Korea has pulled out all the propaganda stops in a hard-hitting campaign to incite popular dissatisfaction with the present South Korean government.
- A. Trying to capitalize on political dissension following Rhee's fall, Pyongyang is using the popular reunification theme as a tool to stir unrest.
- B. There is no change in North Korea's basic position. It still demands that the US withdraw from the South before peninsula-wide elections can be held on reunification and it still refuses to permit UN supervision of those elections.
- C. But the North Koreans are trying to get the Southerners interested in preliminary North-South contacts and are using new bait.
- II. Exuding brotherhood and economic affluence, the North Koreans are offering a vast range of aid projects to the South. These, and the joint scientific-cultural activities which go with them, are designed to appeal to every segment of the South Korean population.
- A. One by one, the chiefs of North Korea's various government ministries got up at the Supreme Assembly 19-24 November and spelled out specific aid projects with which the particular ministry was prepared to help the "impoverished" South.
- B. Pyongyang's propaganda media are giving these speeches unprecedented play--one two-hour speech has been rebroadcast 19 times so far.

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C. Aid projects are well thought out. They would make real contribution to South Korea economy and are probably within North Korean capabilities.

III. The Bloc is supporting Pyongyang's drive: An official Soviet statement of 7 December hailed North Korea's confederation proposals and attacked US occupation of South Korea as "the main obstacle on the road to Korean unification."

IV. South Korean government has discounted Pyongyang's proposals as propaganda, tantamount to communism if accepted.

A. However, under domestic pressure to develop new dynamic solutions to chronic ROK economic problems, Chang Myon government does not feel it can reject Pyongyang unification proposals if "the people really want it."

V. Post-revolutionary freedom of expression likely to stimulate increasing South Korean public interest in unification.

A. Small but vocal minority of students and intellectuals see unification on the pattern of an Austrian-type neutralization as the solution to Korea's problems.

B. There are indications that public listening to Pyongyang radio broadcasts is increasing.

1. During course of April revolution many South Koreans developed the habit of tuning in on Radio Pyongyang to find out what was happening.

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